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INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 2193
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY 2956
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDRUSARPAC FT SHAFTER HI PRIORITY
RUCNFB/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHHMUNS/COMSOPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKDIA/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 DHAKA 001073

NOFORN
SIPDIS
TERREP

DEPT FOR DS/IP/NEA-SCA, DS/TIA, DS/TIA/ITA, DS/TIA/CC,
DS/TIA/PII, DS/T/ATA, SCA/INSB, SCA/FO, S/CT, INR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/24/2029

TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [PINS](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [IN](#) [PK](#) [BG](#)

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH DETAINS SUSPECTED LET TERRORIST; SHARES
INFORMATION ON EARLIER ARRESTS; DISCOUNTS THREAT TO U.S.

REF: A. DHAKA 1035

[B](#). DHAKA 1025

[C](#). DHAKA 984

[D](#). DHAKA 981

[E](#). DHAKA 980

[F](#). IIR 4 201 0321 10 DTG 171846Z

[G](#). IIR 4 201 0321 10 DTG 151941Z

[H](#). IIR 4 201 0273 10 DTG 140023Z

[I](#). IIR 4 201 0253 10 DTG 102212Z

Classified By: AMBASSADOR JAMES F. MORIARTY REASONS 1.4 (b), (c), (d),
(g)

Summary

[1](#). (S/NF) Police arrested Abu Motaleb, a suspected LeT member, on November 21 as part of the Government of Bangladesh's (GOB) continuing ef
Police Arrest Another Suspected LeT Member

[2](#). (S/NF) Police arrested Abu Motaleb, a suspected
Lashkar-e-Taiba recruiter and arms and explosive expert on
November 21. Police alleged Motaleb was recruiting in
Bangladesh as well as possibly scouting targets and training
militants for operations in India and Afghanistan. Police
provided ARSO with information taken from Motaleb during
initial questioning. Motaleb said he was 44 years old;
however, according to his Bangladesh National ID Card, he was
born in 1973. Motaleb said he had left Bangladesh and
crossed into Pakistan via India in 1987 to join the
mujahideen fighting the Soviets. Motaleb said he had fought
in Afghanistan from October/November 1987 until the Soviets
left Afghanistan in 1988-89, when he returned to Bangladesh.
While fighting in Afghanistan, Motaleb met Amzad Khaza,
allegedly a HUJI-B leader, and fought the Soviets alongside
him. After Motaleb XXXXXXXXXXXX, he remained in
contact with Amzad and assisted him with HUJI-B operational
logistics. Officials in the Detective Branch of Bangladesh's
police told ARSO they believed Motaleb facilitated
connections between a LeT operative named Abdur Rahman Syed
and HUJI-B. Below is Motaleb's information, taken from his
national ID card:

Name: Abu Motaleb
Alias: Mutu
DPOB: 04/15/1973, Raninagar, Rajshahi
National ID card: 1594314764937
Father: Abdur Rouf (deceased)
Mother: Momtaz Begum
Current Address: Chaya Bhaban, Chanmari Road, Police
Station Dampara - 4000, Khulshi, Chittagong City
Corporation, Chittagong, Bangladesh
Other Addresses: Village Char Shahapur, Police Station
Ishwardi, Pabna District, Bangladesh

Chittagong Arrests Included Two Indian Extremists

[3](#). (S/NF) Tarique Siddique, a key advisor to Prime Minister
Sheikh Hasina, informed us that Indian officials notified the
GOB that two unidentified Indian nationals, suspected of
having LeT ties and connected to the 2008 Mumbai attack, were
hiding in the Chittagong area and requested GOB assistance in
detaining them (ref A). This account varied slightly from
information provided by the police, who told us an
unidentified source from within LeT had put Bangladesh police
on the trail of an Indian national, with suspected ties to
LeT, named T. Nasir. That led police to the two Indians, T.
Nasir and Sharfaraz (NFI), and three Bangladeshi suspects
later arrested in Chittagong. Police, likely at the GOI's
request, had not publicized the arrests of the two Indians;
however, police later clarified to the ARSO that they
arrested a total of five, not three, individuals. The police
confirmed they handed over the two Indian nationals to
India's Border Security Force on or about November 5 or 6,
but did not specify how the transfers were accomplished.
(Note: We have no further information on T. Nasir or
Sharfaraz. End note.)

[4](#). (S/NF) Local media speculated that the three Bangladeshi
nationals arrested in Chittagong - Mufti Harun Izahar,
Shahidul Islam, and Saiful Islam - were LeT members planning
attacks on the Indian and U.S. Embassies in Dhaka (ref B).
Police rearrested the three men after they were granted and
then posted bail on November 22. Police provided ARSO with
updated suspect information, including information gleaned
from their cell phones:

Name: Mufti Harun Izahar

DOB: 02/06/1977
Citizenship: Bangladeshi
Bangladeshi Passport #: X - 0651832
National ID card: 1594314262970
Mothers Name: Masana Begum
Fathers Name: Mufti Izhar Hossain age: 65
Current Address: Shah Garibullah Housing Society, 162/197
Al Imam Academy,
Police Station Kulshi, Chittagong
Grameen SIM #: 01713450203 attached IME: 357653010927170

Name: Shahidul Islam
Alias: Sujon
DOB: 01/01/1984
Citizenship: Bangladeshi
Bangladeshi Passport #: A - 0438267
National ID card: 1594314262996
Mothers Name: Hazera Khatun
Fathers Name: Abdur Rahim (deceased)
Current Address: Vill Char Syed Zaghar, Police Station
Ishwardi, Mymensingh
Grameen SIM #: 01710434987 attached IME: 353211033566680

Name: Saiful Islam
Alias: Al Amin
DOB: 01/01/1981
Citizenship: Bangladeshi
Bangladesh Passport #: Unknown
National ID card: Unknown
Mothers Name: Mosammat Syda Begum
Fathers Name: Mohammed Yeasin
Current Address: Shah Garibullah Housing Society, 162/194
Al Iman Academy, Police Station Kulshi, Chittagong
Grameen SIM #: 01722087315 attached IME: 356664005117020

Shahidul's Cell Phone Records

15. (S/NF) Special Branch aided ARSO in obtaining a copy of Shahidul Islam's cell phone tracking data. Of particular note are calls Shahidul placed or received on October 27 and 28. Just before his departure from Chittagong to Dhaka via train, Shahidul made his last phone call to Mufti Harun Izahar's cell number on October 27 at 2356 hours. He contacted Izahar again on October 28 at 0929 hours from the Kamlapur Railway Station in Dhaka. Shahidul's next phone call to Izahar was when he returned to Chittagong two days later. While in Dhaka, Shahidul received several calls from cell phone SIM numbers 01926331259 and 01916481727. Both SIM numbers were associated with the same attached IME 35321033566680, which could mean the user switched SIM chips between various calls. The user of this phone contacted Shahidul extensively between 1002 - 1411 hours on October 28 while Shahidul was in proximity to cell phone repeater towers scattered throughout the Diplomatic Enclave. Between the hours of 1025 - 1322 hours, Shahidul received calls through towers located less than a mile from the U.S. Embassy, the American School, and most Embassy residences. (Comment: Despite this information, GOB officials at all levels told us those arrested this month did not appear to be planning attacks on Embassy Dhaka or the Indian diplomatic mission, as many media reports alleged. End Comment.)

Three Pakistani extremists also arrested

16. (S/NF) Police investigated and arrested on November 12 three Pakistanis and one Bangladeshi they linked, via cell phone records, to the original three Bangladeshis arrested in Chittagong in early November. Police provided Post with initial information on the three Pakistani nationals arrested on/about November 12:

Name: Syed Sufian Azhari
DOB: 04/24/1987
Pakistani Passport: AQ 1844051
SIM #'s: 01715619873, 01720117447, 01727109201 were all used interchangeably with the following IME #'s: 35273401694740, 353794005801650, 357013001881080, 357168005354380, 358806008874860, and 359315021900540

Name: Muhammed Zahid
DOB: 01/12/1985
Pakistani Passport: AS 5178341
SIM #: 01720637776 attached IME #: 356838020417720

Name: Munawar Ali
DOB: 06/01/1979
Pakistani Passport: DH 1799912
SIM #: 01715227504 attached IME #: 357013001728540

Comment

17. (S/NF) The GOB continues to act quickly in its efforts to arrest suspected terrorists. However, an over-centralized bureaucracy and a culture of mistrust continue to hamper information sharing among GOB security and law enforcement organizations. Post continues to seek further information on those arrested, although in some cases GOB officials have shown reluctance to share fully information with us. This is unusual as Post normally enjoys close cooperation with the GOB. The involvement of both Indian and Pakistani nationals, and the sensitive nature of Bangladesh's relationship with these two countries, may be the source of Bangladeshi reluctance to share information regarding the foreign nationals arrested. Media speculation regarding the alleged targets has continued since the initial spate of arrests in early November, and the common public perception that the Indian and U.S. Embassies were targeted remains. GOB officials continue to maintain that media reporting about alleged targets was false and none of those arrested were directly tied to a threat against U.S. interests in Bangladesh. We remain vigilant and engaged to counter threats to the Mission, U.S. citizens and U.S. interests in Bangladesh.

MORIARTY